REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. The objections and rejections set forth in the

Office Action are respectfully traversed below.

The Abstract:

The Office Action alleged that the application did not contain an Abstract. However, page

34 of the application constitutes the required Abstract. A copy of page 34 is attached.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph:

The claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for the specific issues

identified on page 2 of the Office Action. The minor antecedent basis errors were corrected by this

Amendment.

Claim 1 was also amended to clarify that the "alternative table" is different from a tray set

table. As explained, for example, on page 10 of the specification, the "alternative table" 20 is

different from a tray set table 10 for setting the size and type of the papers stored in each tray.

The Office Action alleged that claim 2 did not have antecedent basis for "the indication."

This is incorrect. Claim 1 recites "a predetermined indication" which serves as the antecedent basis

for the subject matter of claim 2. The same applies for claim 6.

The language of claim 8 was clarified. Claim 1 provides the antecedent basis for claim 8's

paper information.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1 - 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over **Shinohara** (USP 6,024,505) in view of **Umezawa, et al**. (USP 4,725,869). It is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest all the features recited in the present claimed invention.

For instance, amended claim1 recites an alternative table that is different from a tray set table. This alternative table registers paper information for one tray, such information being used by the tray selection unit in case paper is not stored in any one of the plurality of trays. The alternative table facilitates smooth operability when there is a paper disagreement error condition during the printing processing. While the specific paper size and type contained in the paper tray is identified in the printer's tray set table 10, the discontinuity during a paper disagreement condition (occurring when the paper information specified by the printing job data does not correspond to the papers identified in the tray set table 10) is avoided by utilizing the paper information in the alternative table. Neither **Shinohara** nor **Umezawa**, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this claimed feature.

Shinohara utilizes the form sheet memory 23 to store form sheet definitions for various types of form sheets. However, the form sheet memory 23 does not correspond to the present claimed alternative table. Instead, the form sheet memory 23 stores specific form sheet information that is expected to correspond to the form sheets that are either stored in the printer or are provided in various sheet paths of the printer (see e.g., column 3, lines 15 - 46 and column 6, lines 11 - 32). When the actual corresponding form sheet is not identified in the printer or on any sheet paths of the

printer, the printer control instructs the user to properly set the form sheet data in the sheet path and register it in the memory or to select the form sheet that has been set (column 6, lines 27 - 29). This disruption in the printing process reflects the problems in the prior art that the present invention seeks to overcome. Indeed, the form sheet memory 23 functions in a manner similar to the purpose of the tray set table 10 described in the present specification, which is intended to identify the specific paper types that are present in the printer. Therefore, nothing in **Shinohara**, nor in the further reference to **Umezawa** teaches or suggests, either alone or in combination, the further provision of an alternative table as recited in the present claimed invention.

Moreover, the present claimed tray selection unit selects the tray corresponding to the printing job data "**based on the alternative table** in the case where the paper corresponding to the paper information specified by the printing job data is __not__ stored in any one of the plurality of trays." Again, as mentioned above, the present invention avoids the disruptions during a paper disagreement condition so that the printing processing may continue in a smooth operation. The claimed tray selection unit facilitates the selection of a tray based on the data in the alternative table (*different from the tray set table*) when the paper information specified by the printing job data is **not** stored in any one of the plurality of trays (where each of the trays have paper information identified in the tray set table). The further reference to **Umezawa** does not disclose this type of tray selection unit, either alone or in combination with **Shinohara**. **Umezawa** merely discloses only a judge circuit 5 which selects suitable paper feed cassette based on copying key 1, cassette key 2, detection of detection circuit 3, and memory 6, but does not disclose the claimed tray selection unit which selects

the tray corresponding to the printing job data based on alternative table in case where the paper is not stored in any one of the plurality of trays. Basically, **Shinohara** and **Umezawa** do not disclose the tray being selected based on an alternative table, in case where the paper corresponding to the print job data is not stored in any tray. For at least these reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Summary

Nothing in the prior art, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all the features recited in the present claimed invention. Therefore, the claims are in condition for allowance.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

John P. Kong
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 40,054

JPK/kal
Atty. Docket No. **001558**
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930

23850
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE .

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made
               Copy of Abstract (page 34)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE   09/740,873

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph on page 4, line 12 through line 22 has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

However, in the case where the paper disagreement error occurs, if the setting of the tray is changed in order to cancel it, the change is still maintained even if the printing processing is ended in the printing job data. Accordingly, in the case where the setting of the tray is changed for the [temporal] temporary printing, it is necessary to return the setting of the tray to a former setting, and there is a problem that operability is inferior. Furthermore, in the case where the paper size is automatically recognized to set, further in the case where there is no paper of the paper size specified by the printing job data, it is not possible to change the setting of the tray.

The paragraph on page 7, line 3 through line 13 has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

Thus, the alternative table for registering the paper information for alternative printing is managed for each host device. Accordingly, the information of the alternative information in each host device is independent, and the alternative table in one host device does not exert influences on the other host devices. As probability of the occurrence of disagreement errors is decreased by

executing the alternative printing, it is possible to reduce influences on the other host devices owning

jointly the printer, and to contribute to stabilization of a network constituted by the printer and the

plurality of host devices.

The paragraph on page 11, line 26 through page 12, line 10 has been replaced with the

following rewritten paragraph:

In this manner, even in the case where the papers of the size and type specified are not stored

in the tray of the printer, the size and type are registered in the alternative table 20 for a

predetermined tray, whereby in the case where the same size and type as the registered size and type

are next specified, the printer does not become in the disagreement error condition, and executes an

alternative printing. Accordingly, for a [temporal] temporary printing, as there is no necessity for

changing setting of the tray, or depressing the CONTINUE switch in each printing job data, it is

possible to enhance operability in the printer. Hereinafter, embodiments of the present invention will

be explained in further detail.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been amended to read as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A printer for selecting one of a plurality of trays based on printing job data from a host device and printing on a paper stored therein, comprising

an alternative table, different from a tray set table, for registering paper information including at least a paper size or a paper type for one tray according to a predetermined indication; and

a tray selection unit for selecting the tray corresponding to the printing job data based on the alternative table in the case where the paper corresponding to the paper information specified by the printing job data is not stored in any one of the plurality of trays, each of the trays having at least a paper size or a paper type as identified in the tray set table.

7. (AMENDED) The printer according to claim 1, wherein, in case where the paper information of a paper stored in at least one of the plurality of trays is changed, the registered [content] paper information of the alternative table is cleared.

8. (AMENDED) The printer according to claim 1, wherein the [plurality of pieces of] paper information for a plurality of papers is registered for one tray in the alternative table.